Detention of Indian Pilots in USA

2668. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 49 Indian pilots were detained in Florida and Texas by the Federal Bureau of Investigation after the terrorist attacks on the USA on 11th September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of pilots detained; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) to (c) According to the information available with the Government, only four Indian pilot trainees were detained by the United States Authorities in Dallas (Texas) after the terrorist attacks of September 11,2001. Their names are :

1. Shri Divya Mishra
2. Shri Antonio Luke Victor
3. Shri Ashok Pathak
4. Shri Jaspreet Singh

The matter of expeditious disposal of their cases was followed up by Consulate General of India, Houston and the pilots were released within six days of their detention.

Streamlining policy with regard to neighbouring Countries

†2669. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been adopting the policy to ignore all the incidents taking place in the neighbouring countries like Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are not aware of or do not want to express there reaction on the excesses and oppression being unleashed upon the people of Indian orgin in the neighbouring countries;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether the country is affected by the incidents happening in the neighbouring countries; and

(e) if so, whether any action would be initiated to streamline his Ministry to make them accountable to the nation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) Government is alert to all important developments in India's neighbourhood and particularly to those which could affect national interest. The Government is responsive to the legitimate concerns, needs and problems of the people of Indian origin.

Pak-former Prime Minister's visit to India

2670. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Prime Minister of Pakistan has recently paid a visit to India and held discussions with various leaders including Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government hope any peaceful relations with Pakistan after her visit to India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Former Pakistan Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto paid a private visit to India, from 25-29 November, 2001, on an invitation from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). On 26th November she addressed a meeting organized by the CII.

Government extended all the usual courtesies due to a former Head of Government.

(c) and (d) India has always endeavored to build peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan. As in the past, this shall also continue to be our endeavor in the future.

Maoist attacks in Nepal

2671. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the recent activities of Maoist rebels in Nepal, the lives and properties of Indians there are in danger;